

## D. REMARKS

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended to add the serial number of the related, co-pending application

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application prior to this Amendment and Response. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,978,379 (hereinafter Chan). Claims 3, 7, 10, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Reynolds et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,138,161 (hereinafter Reynolds).

Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, and 20 have been amended, and claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12-16, 19, and 20 remain pending in the Application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-6, 11-13, and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 3 and 4. Similarly, independent claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 10 and 11, and independent claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 17 and 18. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended, independent claims

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1, 8, and 15, and the claims which depend from them, are patentable, and respectfully request that they be allowed.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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